

**CLAIMS**

1) A measuring probe (S), having the means to access data flows composed of packets, transmitted along a path formed by a multiplicity of equipment in a telecommunication network, and the measurement means ( $S_M$ ) to perform measurements, in accordance with configuration data ( $B_C$ ), characterised in that in addition it possesses determination means ( $S_D$ ) employed to determine that one or more packets transmitted along the said path form a signalling message, and signalling means ( $S_S$ ) to determine the said configuration data from this signalling message.

2) A measuring probe in accordance with the previous claim, in which the said measurements are relative to the said data flow.

3) A measuring probe in accordance with claim 1, in which the said measurement means ( $S_M$ ) are suitable for transmitting measurement reports, containing the said measurements, to a measuring device (M) determined by an identifier contained in the said configuration data.

4) A measuring probe in accordance with the previous claim, in which the said measurements are transmitted to the said measuring device (M) by means of a proxy, the data transmitted to the said proxy containing the said identifier.

5) A measuring probe in accordance with claim 1, in which the said means of determination ( $S_D$ ) are suitable for reading a specific label, contained in the said received message, and for determining

whether the said received message is a signalling message from this specific label.

**6)** A measuring probe in accordance with claim 1, in which the  
5 said configuration base contains a set of records, each record corresponding to a measurement task and containing in particular:

- a filter determining the packets on which the measurements must be performed,
- parameters relating to the method of measurement

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**7)** A measuring probe in accordance with claim 1, in which the said parameters are chosen from a combination of factors including:

- the time during which the measurements must be performed,
- 15 ◦ sampling data, and a hashing function in particular,
- a parameter triggering the time-stamping of the packets to be measured,
- a parameter triggering the identification of the packets to be measured, by means of a hashing function in particular.
- 20 ◦ A parameter triggering the counting of the packets,
- the method for transmitting the measurements to the measuring device (M).

**8)** A measuring probe in accordance with claim 3, in which the  
25 transmissions with the measuring device (M) are made secure.

**9)** A measuring probe in accordance with the previous claim, in which the means of making secure are transmitted by a signalling message.

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**10)** A measuring probe in accordance with claim 1, also including means to decide on the creation of a new measurement task by the said signalling means ( $S_s$ ), in particular in accordance with a sensitivity indicator associated with the said measuring probe.

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**11)** A measuring probe in accordance with claim 10, in which the decision is also a function of a priority contained in the said received message.

10 **12)** A network element, in particular a router, including a measuring probe in accordance with one of the previous claims.

**13)** A telecommunication network including measuring probes in accordance with one of the claims 1 to 11.

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**14)** A telecommunication network in accordance with the previous claim, including, in addition, measuring devices ( $M$ ).

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